

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 2218

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TAGS: PFOR GY CU VE

SUBJ: CUBANS IN GUYANA

REF: GEORGETOWN 371

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: THE INFLUENTIAL NEWS MAGAZINE RESUMEN PUBLISHED IN ITS FEB 24 ISSUE A "CONFIDENTIAL REPORT" ALLEGING THAT THE GUYANESE HAVE CONSTRUCTED "PARA- MILITARY" INSTALLATIONS OR "FARMS" AT THREE LOCATIONS (KINBIA NEAR THE RIVER BERBICE, PAAPYA IN THE NORTH EAST AND TUMATUMARI ON THE ESSEQUIBO) AND ARE DEVELOPING A FOURTH IN THE RUPUNUNI REGION. ALTHOUGH THE INSTALLATIONS WERE PURPORTEDLY DESIGNED BY "CHINESE ADVISORS," IT IS THE CUBANS-- SOME 200 STRONG -- WHO ARE PLAYING THE MAJOR FOREIGN ROLE IN THE CAMPS, ACCORDING TO THE MAGAZINE. THE ARTICLE DISCUSSES THE USE OF SIMPLIFIED MARXIST-LENINIST INDOCTRINATION AT THESE PLACES AND THE CONSTANT TRAVEL OF GUYANESE TO CUBA FOR MILITARY TRAINING. THE MAGAZINE'S EDITOR, JORGE OLAVARRIA, CONCLUDES THAT GUAYANA IS NOW A BRIDGEHEAD OF THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA ON THIS CONTINENT." END UNCLASSIFIED

2. COMMENT: THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS HERE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS OF CUBANS MOVING INTO THE GUAYANESE BORDER AREAS. THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS ASKED THE AMBASSADOR ON TWO OCCASIONS WHETHER WE KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT A CUBAN COLONICATION SCHEME IN THE EAST. CONFIDENTIAL

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SECTIONS OF GUYANA. IT IS FAR FROM INCONCEIVABLE THAT THE

"INTELLIGENCE SOURCES" RESUMEN CITES ARE ELEMENTS WHITIN THE GOV INTERESTED IN SURFACING THESE RUMORS.

3. CONSERVATIVE NATIONALISTSTS HERE, WHO HAVE BEEN QUIET ON THE GUYANA BORDER ISSUE FOR MANY MONTHS, ARE BEGINNING TO FOCUS ON BURNHAM'S CUBAN CONNECTIONS. THESE PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO REVIVE THE CLAMORE OVER VENEZUELA'S "LOST TERRITORY" AND TO STRIKE A BLOW AT THE DOMESTIC LEFT.

4. AS TO THE QUESTION POSED IN THE REFTEL(IS PEREZ CONCERNED?), THE ANSWER IS DEFINITELY YES. GROWING CUBAN INFLUENCE AND THE CUBAN PRESENCE (SUCH AS IT MAY BE) IN GUYANA APPEAR FROM CARACAS AS A THREAT TO THE STABILITY OF THE REGION, A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF REGIONAL POLITICAL DISCORD (WHICH THE GOV LINE OF LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY SEEKS TO AVOID AT ALL COSTS) AND A COMPLICATING FACTOR IN THE HANDLING OF THE DELICATE BORDER PROBLEM.
SHLAUDEMAN

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